

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of August 8, 2007 is respectfully requested.

Firstly, it is noted that the Examiner did not initial next to references AO and AP on page 1 of the Form 1449 submitted January 22, 2004, and reference AJ on page 2 of the Form 1449 submitted January 22, 2004. Although an initialed copy of this Form 1449 was attached to the Office Action of November 21, 2006, the Examiner did not initial next to those references indicating consideration of those references. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a new initialed copy of the Form 1449 submitted on January 22, 2004.

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 26-32 were pending and treated in the outstanding Office Action. In particular, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 9-14 in view of the prior art. However, the Examiner also stated that pending dependent claims 26-32 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, rejected claims 1-7 and 9-14 have now been cancelled. Furthermore, the subject matter of original base independent claim 1 has now been incorporated into dependent claim 26 so as to place that claim in independent form. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-32 are now in condition for allowance in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Makoto IMANISHI et al.

By: 

W. Douglas Hahm
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicants

WDH/akl
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 31, 2007